(Price per ton)

Month	Monthly average prices of edible oils					
	In international market * (FOB in terms of rupee)			In India (in rupee)		
	RBD Palmolein	Soyabean oil	Sunflower oil	RBD Palmolein	Soyabean oil	Sunflower oil
August, 2008	39842	49427	53510	48030	55330	58260
September, 2008	35604	46850	50493	44240	52240	57830
October, 2008	28578	42503	42018	37310	44730	57920
November, 2008	25175	35501	36632	31810	38100	57850

* Taking into account monthly average dollar conversion rate in rupee.

In order to harmonise the interests of farmers, consumers and processors, the availability, price situation and duty structure of edible oils are reviewed from time to time. Import duty on crude soyabean oil has been raised from nil to 20% *w.e.f.* 18.11.2008.

De-regulation of sugar industry

1299. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the recent AGM of the Indian Sugar Mills Association, sugar industry had demanded complete de-regulation of the sugar industry;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) whether Allahabad High Court has questioned the basis of the formula of State advise price for sugarcane farmers; and

(d) if so, what would be the minimum support price for sugarcane farmers and what would be the fate of pending arrears of farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) in its last Annual General Meeting (AGM) has, *inter alia,* demanded de-regulation in certain aspects. The Government has not taken a view on their demand.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) M/s Basti Sugar Mills Company Ltd. and a number of other private sugar factories in Uttar Pradesh challenged the State Advised Price (SAP) fixed by the Government of Uttar Pradesh for 2006-07 sugar season. The Hon'ble Allahabad High Court in its judgement dated 19.12.2007 quashed the circular/notification of the Government of Uttar Pradesh. In an appeal filed against the said judgement of Allahabad High Court, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its interim order dated 7.9.2008 has directed cane price payment at Rs. 110 per quintal without any deduction on account of

transport rebate. As such, sugar factories are required to pay cane price for the said sugar season in accordance with the said interim order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The matter, at present, is sub-judice.

Shift farming for ethanol based fuel

1300. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the hasty and misguided shift farming for ethanol based fuel is creating a havoc in the farming sector;

(b) if so, whether Government has assessed the figures *i.e.* how much maize and other cereals would be diverted for the purpose;

(c) whether world food prices have jumped a massive 75 per cent since 2005, and

(d) if so, what has been its impact on food security of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No Sir. In India alcohol or ethanol is basically manufactured from molasses, a by-product of the sugar industry.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) International prices of wheat increased substantially in 2007 and 2008. Since April, 2008, the global wheat prices have shown a softening trend. However, the high global wheat prices do not seem to have had any direct impact on the food security of the country as the Government supplemented the domestic stock with import of wheat.

Procurement of Foodgrains

1301. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of foodgrains procured by FCI directly during 2007-08 and 2008-09 upto 30th September, 2008;

(b) the quantity of foodgrains procured by the State Government agencies during 2007-08 and 2008-09;

(c) the quantity of foodgrains procured by the non-Government domestic and foreign organizations during 2008-09 with the names of the organizations; and

(d) the reasons of procurement by non-Government organizations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The quantity of wheat and rice procured by FCI and the State agencies in the Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2007-08 and 2008-09 and Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2007-08 and 2008-09 is as follows: